

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were pending in the application; the status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1, 2, 5-9, and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. 10-108057 to Shinichi et al. ("Shinichi").

Claims 3, 4, 10, and 11 are allowed.

Objection to the Title

The objection to the title of the invention as not being descriptive is noted and a new title is presented in this Amendment which is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-2, 5-9, and 12-14 have been cancelled. New claims 15 and 16 have been added to address additional aspects of the invention. These changes do not introduce any new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 5-9, and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shinichi, is respectfully traversed because the subject claims have been cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot.

New Claims

New claims 15 and 16 depend from allowed claims 3 and 10, respectively. Accordingly, new claims 15 and 16 are allowable for at least the same reasons as for their respective base claims.

Application No. 09/859,703
Amendment dated December 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 18, 2004

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Any fee required by this document other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

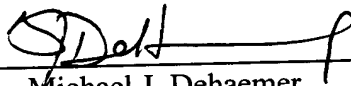
If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee,

Application No. 09/859,703
Amendment dated December 3, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 18, 2004

and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP's
Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Michael J. Dehaemer
Registration No. 39,164
Attorney for Applicants

MJD/rb:bar
SIDLEY AUSTIN BROWN & WOOD LLP
717 N. Harwood, Suite 3400
Dallas, Texas 75201
Direct: (214) 981-3335
Main: (214) 981-3300
Facsimile: (214) 981-3400
December 3, 2004